

Questions and Answers About Current Planning Efforts for Nottoway Park

What is the Park Authority doing at Nottoway Park?

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is conducting a park master plan revision.

Why?

The original master plan for Nottoway Park was adopted in 1973. After more than 30 years, the Park Authority Board feels that the existing plan does not reflect the current needs and desires of the community nor accurately reflect the existing conditions at the park. The master plan revision will allow the Park Authority to recognize the legitimacy of existing facilities such as the community gardens, and take into account changes in park needs, uses, and boundaries.

What is a “Master Plan Revision?”

A master plan revision allows for major changes to an adopted master plan. The revision will consider existing facilities at the site, allow for elimination of previously planned but never built elements, and may add new facilities or elements. The entire park area is evaluated during a master plan revision. After significant public input and review (including a formal public hearing and public comment period), an updated master plan may be adopted by the Park Authority Board.

How does FCPA involve the public?

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) employs extensive public outreach programs to identify the needs of the community. While not all user needs can be met at any particular park location, the FCPA strives to satisfy the desires of the community to the fullest extent possible.

A preliminary public planning workshop for the draft plan was held on November 19, 2002, at the Marshall Road Elementary School. At that meeting, FCPA solicited public comments, concerns, and suggestions to incorporate into the master plan revision process. Since that time, FCPA has been working with community members to respond to public concerns. A public open house to discuss progress to date and solicit input on two separate draft master plan revision options will be held February 5, 2004 from 7 – 9 p.m. in the cafeteria at Oakton High School.

It is anticipated that the Park Authority Board will authorize a formal public hearing comment period sometime in the next three months. Comments at the Open House will help guide the FCPA in choosing a layout to include in the draft document that will be advertised for the formal public hearing. Following consideration of the comments and subsequent revisions to the draft master plan, the Park Authority Board will schedule a date to take action on the plan.

What facilities may be removed from Nottoway Park?

Neither of the two master plan options envision removal of existing facilities at Nottoway Park. However, some of the master-planned but as of yet un-built facilities (such as the community center) shown on the 1973 master plan may be taken off the revised plan.

What facilities may be added to Nottoway Park?

A new restroom facility, new picnic shelter(s), additional parking spaces, and a new access drive to improve vehicular circulation and a second soccer field are under consideration for adding to the master plan. Even if a new feature is shown on the master plan, it may not be built right away (if ever). The plan is a guide based on current trends and projected future needs. Any additional facilities will be built only subject to a demonstrated need and available funding.

What facilities may be re-organized or re-structured?

FPCA operates maintenance activities from the park site (including storage of landscaping materials, repair of park maintenance equipment, etc.). Currently, these activities are scattered in several locations throughout the park. The master plan revisions propose consolidating these activities in one area and include replacement of an existing outdated shop/storage structure that does not meet current operational or building standards. The new maintenance facility will be able to perform the current functions and duties of the existing facility but in a much more efficient and safe manner.

Also being considered is the expansion of the field dimensions for one of the diamond fields to accommodate adult softball and the reorganization and expansion of the parking near the basketball courts/community gardens.

Will any trees be removed from Nottoway Park?

FPCA carefully evaluates impacts to natural resources whenever we consider changes at a park. While we make every attempt to avoid impacts to significant forested areas, it may not be possible to avoid an impact to any portion of woodlands. Regarding the potential loss of undeveloped park land, FPCA is pleased that we have been able to acquire 6.75 acres within the last two years as an addition to Nottoway Park. Due to the recent land acquisition, there should be a net gain of woodland area despite any other changes at the park.

Who can I contact if I have questions or wish to offer comments?

Send comments to our website parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or contact FPCA project manager Irish Grandfield by e-mail at irish.grandfield@fairfaxcounty.gov or by phone at (703) 324-8725.